

PARK, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, January 14, 2010

A regular meeting of the Park, Recreation and Community Services Board was held in the Council Chambers in City Hall of Burbank 275 East Olive Avenue, Burbank, California. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Whit Prouty, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

Present Members Prouty, DePalo, Ferguson, Layfer (6:17), Yegparian (6:30) **Absent...** None

Staff Present... Director Chris Daste, Deputy Directors and Gaby Flores; Administrative Officer Johnathan Frank, Acting Recording Secretary Erick Solis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes approved for December (passed 3-0)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Rocco Mann spoke on his desire to have a dog park in the City. Mr. Ferguson requested a report from staff. Mr. Daste gave a brief overview of the history of the issue in Burbank. In response to Mr. Mann's appearance at City Council, per a Councilmember's request, an informational letter was going to be prepared for City Council. The Board would be kept updated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming events were announced

NEW BUSINESS

1. Burbank Cultural Arts Center

Debbie Gates was not present to provide her report. The item was postponed to a later date.

ACTION None (item would be re-agendized for a later date)

2. Colony Theatre Annual Report

Barbara Beckley, Artistic Director from the Colony Theatre Company, provided a brief overview of the 2008/09 season.

In response to a Boardmember's question regarding their audit, staff would investigate the status of the audit results. Another Boardmember suggested that the Colony extend invitations to Monterrey and Providence High Schools.

ACTION Note and File

3. Letter Opposing Cell Towers Near Parks

Mr. Frank discussed the letter drafted on behalf of the Board, addressing the concerns expressed during last month's Board meeting regarding cell towers. Once approved and signed, it would be forwarded to City Council.

The Board made a couple of changes to the letter. Mr. Frank would forward the revised version to the members. Once signed by Mr. Prouty, it would be forwarded to City Council and a copy would be sent to the Board.

ACTION Note and File

4. Connect With Your community

Ms. Flores reported that Connect With Your Community (CWYC) moved from the Community Development Department to the Park, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCS) in October. She explained that the City is committed to improving the quality of life for all; engaging residents, transforming neighborhoods and supporting values that foster leadership in our community. This is demonstrated through policy and program decisions supported by City leaders and staff. All PRCS programs fit this vision: the youth resource programs, family friendly contract classes, top-notch park facilities, diverse special events, etc. CWYC's mission is to foster innovative programs and projects with specific goals relating to building healthier families and neighborhoods. The program strives to nurture healthy partnerships between residents, employees, non-profits, service clubs and businesses. The program targets the City's five focus neighborhoods, which share several characteristics: higher densities, dilapidation, deferred maintenance, increased gang activity, lower income levels, higher crime rates, and limited access to key services. In 1997, the Redevelopment Agency purchased

nine multi-family buildings at the cul-de-sac at Elmwood. The City partners with Burbank Housing Corporation (BHC) to administer the operations of the neighborhood’s housing units. CWYC addresses social inequities within the City. The combination of housing and educational outreach in the neighborhoods has resulted in improving neighborhoods, connecting residents to resources and services, raising property values, providing support services, and involving residents with the community. Educational classes are also held at activity centers. BHC coordinates an afterschool program and CWYC programs ESL classes, parenting workshops, nutrition courses, seminars and classes. A variety of events are held in the neighborhoods including health fairs, safety events, Earth Day events, etc. These activities would not be possible without the support of businesses and service clubs, and volunteers. The CWYC Volunteer Program supports outreach events, all Downtown Burbank events, the Rose Float, holiday baskets, winter shelter, and special drives for agencies (such as BTAC). Another component of CWYC is the neighborhood leadership program; a partnership-based program between the City, Leadership the Burbank Alumni Association and BUSD. The program furthers the goal of building community by broadening the understanding of the community and its resources, promoting leadership and encouraging resident participation, and enhancing the ability of residents and neighborhoods to create partnerships and give back on their own. There are a variety of sessions that CWYC coordinates with community partners, including Leadership 101, a tour of the City of Burbank, community resources, financial literacy, education and diversity, the environment and social responsibility, health literacy, a community project, and a graduation ceremony. The program was awarded the League of California Cities Helen Putnam Award for Excellence. CWYC would like to focus on creatable and sustainable programs, and be more program-focused (looking at classes, events and partnerships). By looking at programs through the CDD and PRCS perspectives, staff will focus on fostering opportunities to cross coordinate and fuse programs, services and outreach. CWYC is a perfect fit in the PRCS Department because our programs provide opportunities to engage the public, provide fair access, and improve the City’s quality of life.

In response to a question from a Boardmember, Ms. Flores explained that the CWYC program moved from CDD with its staff (an Administrative Analyst) and that a Recreation Coordinator was being recruited. There was no additional burden on PRCS staff.

ACTION Note and File

OLD BUSINESS

1. City Council Agenda Items

Mr. Daste reported on the following City Council items: City Council’s request more information to the amendment to the Five Points Art project agreement on January 26; and the approval to execute a PSA for the third installation of art along Chandler Bikeway on January 5. The senior medical building parking issue item will be brought back as a consent item and the dog park item would be addressed via an informational letter to City Council.

ACTION Note and File

REPORTS

1. Childcare Committee

Mr. DePalo noted the Committee would be hosting various speakers at their meetings to address different issues. The group also decided to email childcare directors regarding seminars.

ACTION Note and File

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE

None

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND STAFF

Mr. Yegparian requested that the Ovrom Park item be removed from reports. He commented on the Five Points event and suggested that the Park Board Chair make some brief comments at any such events in the future. Mr. Ferguson requested that the item “response to oral communications” be added to the agenda. He requested having an update on Childcare programs, Ovrom Park and updates from other Committees within the Department. Mr. Prouty commented on the Five Points opening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

CHAIR: _____ **Date:** _____

SECRETARY: _____ **Date:** _____